Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Information Open House
Project STP-0000-00(411), Walton County, P.I. No. 0000411
December 04, 2007

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Monroe Bypass is located in Walton County, approximately 40 miles east of the City of Atlanta, Georgia. The proposed project would construct an approximately 9.8 mile new location four-lane roadway (two 12-foot lanes in each direction) with a 44-foot wide depressed median and variable width shoulders. The proposed bypass would be located to the east of the City of Monroe. It would begin at a new T-intersection with State Route (SR) 11 approximately 0.5 mile south of the Monroe City limits at the Walton County Industrial Park. From there, the proposed bypass would continue east, then north on new location and tie into existing SR 83 (Unisia Road) from its intersection with Good Hope Road to US 78. The proposed bypass would then continue north-northwest on new location and terminate SR 11 approximately 1.0 mile north of the Monroe City limits. The proposed bypass would form new intersections with several major roads, including: Pannell Road, Old Monroe Madison Road, Vasco Adcock Road, Good Hope Road, US 78, Old Athens Highway, Gratis Road, and John Deere Road. A cul-de-sac would be constructed on existing James Huff Road north of its intersection with US 78.

The proposed right-of-way for the Monroe Bypass would vary from 250 to 300 feet. The proposed new bypass would have a posted speed of 55 miles per hour (mph).

PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The completion of the proposed Monroe Bypass would provide an alternate route around the historic downtown City of Monroe. Within the city limits, there are nine separate historic districts and five individual properties currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The purpose of the project is to alleviate the heavy existing and projected future truck traffic and commuter traffic driving through Monroe's historic downtown. The proposed project was identified as a need in the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center's (NEGRDC) 1997 Walton County Comprehensive Plan to improve increasing congestion in downtown Monroe due to truck and commuter traffic. Based on the steady population and economic growth over the last decade, the NEGRDC predicts continued growth and future business expansion along highways 78, 138, 11, and Interstate 20. The proposed bypass would allow trucks and commuters using SR 11 from Interstate 20 and SR 316 an alternative to the already congested downtown area.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No-Build Alternative- The No-Build or "Do Nothing" Alternative is an alternative that would assume that the proposed bypass of Monroe would not be constructed. No displacements or environmental impacts would occur under the No-Build Alternative; however, this alternative would not fulfill the purpose and need of this project because it would not relieve traffic or provide an alternative route around the historic downtown Monroe.

Southern Alternative-Five combinations of a southern alternative were analyzed. These combinations varied in length from 5.2-5.9 miles in length. Parcel impacts also varied from 34-56. The southern alternative, regardless of the variation was dismissed due to wetland and noise impacts in addition to potential involvement with historic resources.

Northern Alternative-Two combinations of a northern alternative were analyzed. These combinations varied in length from 3.8-4.1 miles. The northern alternatives were found to have higher impacts on wetlands and to noise although less parcel impacts (14-17) than the southern alternatives. However, the northern alternative created a safety issue at Bold Springs Road with site distance and turning angle.

Western Alternative-A western bypass would travel through a more developed part of Walton County and would not capture major truck generators at the US 78/SR 10 intersection with SR 83.

The southern, northern, and western alternatives location may be viewed at the boards located near the two aerial photography displays within the room.